

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 111069

70

ORIGIN NEA-04

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R 081958 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 111069

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO AMMAN BEIRUT KUWAIT
JIDDA MOSCOW TEHRAN TEL AVIV FROM PARIS 07 JUN 73:

QUOTE PARIS 15815

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, IZ

SUBJECT: SOVIET- IRAQ RELATIONS

REF: A) MOSCOW 6321; B) BAGHDAD 0318

DURING TOUR D' HORIZON ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, EMBOFF ASKED
QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS ROUILLON FOR HIS
ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT STATE IRAQI- SOVIET RELATIONS. ROUILLON
SAID THAT FROM REPORTING HE HAD RECEIVED FROM BAGHDAD AND MOSCOW
" HONEYMOON" IN SOVIET IRAQI RELATIONS WAS OVER. FOR SOME
TIME IRAQIS HAD BEEN INCREASINGLY DISENCHANTED WITH SOVIET
AND EASTERN EUROPEAN ROLE. ROUILLON CITED SOVIET FAILURE TO BE
MORE ACTIVE IN DEFENSE OF ARAB INTERESTS IN CONFRONTATION
WITH ISRAEL, GROWING SOVIET RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN, MISTRUST
OF SOVIET RELATIONSHIP WITH KURDS, SOVIET FAILURE TO RESPOND
TO IRAQI OVERTURES TO JOIN COMECON, AND FINALLY IRAQI INSISTANCE
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PAGE 02 STATE 111069

THAT SOVIET BLOC PAY FOR ITS OIL IMPORTS NOT ON BARTER BASIS
WITH WITH HARD CURRENCY. WHILE QUAI HAS NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION
THAT SOVIET ECONOMIC EXPERTS LEAVING IRAQ AS NOTED REF A, ROUILLON
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT QUAI HAD RECEIVED SIMILAR REPORTS. ALTHOUGH
GOF DID NOT RULE OUT DECLINE IN SOVIET BLOC PRESENCE IN IRAQ,
WHICH HE SAID WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE DESIRABLE FROM WESTERN POINT
OF VIEW, FRENCH EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD DID NOT ANTICIPATE MAJOR
RUPTURE WITH SOVIETS COMPARABLE TO THAT BETWEEN SOVIETS AND
EGYPTIANS. ROUILLON CONCLUDED BY NOTING WRYLY THAT FRENCH
EMBASSY IN CAIRO HAD NOT ANTICIPATED DETERIORATION
EGYPTIAN- SOVIET RELATIONS, AND HE THEREFORE WAS HESITANT TO BE
TOO CATEGORIC. IRWIN UNQUOTE RUSH

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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